

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 131

BY SENATORS PERRY, ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRELL, MORRISH, PEACOCK, PETERSON, PRICE, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of U.S. Naval Aviation Instructor Patrick L. Ruth upon his death during a training mission.

WHEREAS, Lt. Patrick Ruth was a native of Metairie, Louisiana, receiving his diploma from Brother Martin High School where he was an outstanding athlete, competing in football and track and field; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Ruth soon began his college studies at Tulane University on a Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Scholarship, majoring in mathematics and graduating in 2008; and

WHEREAS, while attending Tulane, Lt. Ruth also met his future fiancée and the love of his life, Jessica Lauren Fugitt; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Ruth received orders to report to the Aviation Preflight Indoctrination in Pensacola, Florida, where all Naval Aviators are trained, and after successfully completing API, reported to Training Squadron Twenty-Seven in Meridian, Mississippi for Primary Flight Training in the T-34 and later to Training Squadron Thirty-One; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Ruth proudly earned his Naval Aviator wings in March of 2011, and after more training was deployed to the Persian Gulf onboard the USS Harry S. Truman Aircraft Carrier, where he bravely served his country in Operation Enduring Freedom from June of 2013, to April of 2014, and was awarded "Top Hook" of the Air Wing in the E-2C Hawkeye; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Ruth flew as a part of the tactical air forces of the U.S. Navy, performing his primary mission as part of the early warning defense of his Carrier Battle Group, as well as air strike control, ocean surveillance, and search and rescue coordination; and

WHEREAS, after his combat tour of duty Lt. Ruth was recognized by his commanders for his outstanding combat flying skills and was assigned to serve as an instructor pilot at Training Squadron Seven, teaching combat flying techniques in the T-45C Goshawk at the Naval Air Station Meridian; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Ruth was later assigned to Training Squadron VT-7 Eagles, where he was honored to teach the Naval Aviators of the future the many tactics and skills he had learned during his distinguished career; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Ruth was on a training mission Sunday, October 1, 2017, with student naval aviator Lt. Junior Grade Wallace E. Burch when their Goshawk training jet crashed in Tellico Plains, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Ruth was recognized by his commanders and fellow officers as a very dedicated naval aviator, and among his many decorations earned were two awards of the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal, for his sustained superior performance.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its most sincere and profound condolences to the family of Lt. Ruth for their immeasurable loss and also wish to recognize Lt. Ruth for his gallant service to his country, both in combat and in the training of tomorrow's naval aviators.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Lt. Ruth's parents David and Mary Anne Ruth and his fiancée Jessica.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE